Length of Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Project

753. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length that the Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Project sanctioned in 1996-97, is expected to cover;

(b) the total estimated cost of the project and the allocation of funds made upto 31st March 2000;

(c) the target date for completion of the project; and

(d) the progress of work achieved upto 31st March, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) 109 kms.

(b) The latest anticipated cost of the work is Rs. 825 crore. Allocation upto 31st March, 2000 is Rs. 63 crore.

(c) The target date for completion of the project has not yet been fixed.

(d) Work has been started in the stretch falling in plain area i.e. 20 km length from Kumarghat end and 40 km length from Agartala end. Final location survey in the remaining length, which is in hilly terrain, is in progress.

Uncomfortable AC compartments

754. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to stated:

(a) whether it is a fact that AC compartments are extremely high risk in times of accidents;

(b) whether the Railways have studied the possibilities of re-designing the AC compartments;

(c) whether it is a fact that people have suffocated in these AC compartments;

(d) what are the reasons for Rai'ways ignoring safety